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REMARKS ON THE GEKKONID GENERA *HOMOPHOLIS* AND *PLATYPHOLIS* WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW RACE.

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Boulenger (1885, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus., *1*, p. 191), when describing *Homopholis*, overlooked the minute retractile claw on both thumb and first toe, a point which appears to have escaped notice.[1] He also overlooked the inconspicuous, but functional, preanal pores which are present in all six males of the type species, *wahlbergii*, in the Museum of Comparative Zöology. Perhaps the solitary example which he believed to be the male type, but which FitzSimons (1937, Ann. Transvaal Mus., *17*, p. 264) has shown was not, is a female, in which sex the pores are lacking or represented only by faint depressions. Boulenger also speaks of a slight rudiment of web between the digits, an appearance apt to result from the state of preservation.

Again Boulenger (1890, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 88), when describing *Platypholis*, overlooked the minute retractile claws (cf. Tornier, 1896, and Scortecci, 1929), and separated it from *Homopholis* on two characters. (1) The presence of preanal pores in the male, which as we have seen does not separate them. (2) The juxtaposed, instead of imbricating, scales or granules. However, shortly afterwards Boulenger (1896, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), *17*, p. 447) described a Malagasy gecko, *heterolepis*, whose dorsal lepidosis consisted of juxtaposed granules intermixed with tubercles. In all other respects it agreed so closely with

[1] Fortunately I was able to communicate these observations to Dr. V. FitzSimons in time for him to include them on a corrigenda slip in his recently (1943) published volume "The Lizards of South Africa."

Homopholis wahlbergii that he referred it to that genus, saying that it was more logical to enlarge the generic definition to include both types of scalation as such are found in *Hemidactylus, Stenodactylus,* etc.

Thus I can find no grounds for considering *Platypholis* a recognizable genus. I have also carefully considered the possibility of referring both it and *Homopholis* to the synonymy of the closely related *Geckolepis* (Grandidier, 1867) of Madagascar, for the brief description reads as if they were scarcely distinguishable. An examination of the several species of *Geckolepis* in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zöology, however, makes such action appear unjustified.

Though Boulenger assumed that the gecko collected by Wahlberg came from Natal (Smith gave the type locality as "Kafferland eastward of Cape Colony."), Mr. V. FitzSimons writes me (September 24, 1943) that he knows of no Natal record and believes that the type came from Zululand where Wahlberg is known to have collected. The typical form is definitely known from Zululand, Mozambique, and the Transvaal; the northern specimens may be known as

Homopholis wahlbergii arnoldi subsp. nov.

Type.—Museum of Comparative Zöology, No. 12,581, an adult ♂ from Mahalapsi River, Bechuanaland Protectorate, collected by F. Dally.

Paratypes.—Transvaal Museum, No. 1,537, from Mahalapsi River, Bechuanaland Protectorate; Tvl. Mus., No. 18,799 from Birchenough Bridge, Southern Rhodesia; Tvl. Mus., No. 4,768 from Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia; also National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, Nos. C2.8/1.2 and 1.4–1.9, from Bulawayo; Hillside, Bulawayo; and World's View, Matopos, Southern Rhodesia.

Diagnosis.—

Lower surface white peppered with sharply defined black spots; range: Bechuanaland and Southern Rhodesia.....*w. arnoldi*

Lower surface white, uniform or more rarely faintly infuscated with brown; range: Transvaal and Mozambique south through Zululand (not known from Natal).....*w. wahlbergii*

Description.—Internasal granules 2; nostril surrounded by 4–5 nasals and the first labial; upper and lower labials both 11–11; scansors (i. e. "adhesive lamellae") and transversely dilated scales beneath first toe 2+4, beneath fourth toe 11 or 12+5; preanal pores 2.

Coloration.—Avove, pale gray flecked with black, an irregularly broad, black, longitudinal dorso-lateral line from behind eye towards base of tail where it breaks up and forms transverse bars; limbs spotted or finely barred with black. Below, pure white, peppered with sharply distinct black spots, each covering a scale.

Measurements.—Total length of type ♂, 156 (97+59) mm., but tail regenerated.

Remarks.—Named for Dr. G. Arnold, Director of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia, who very kindly supplied me with information regarding the half-dozen specimens listed above as paratypes. Two of the oldest of these are so entirely faded as to show no color whatever, the belly spotting having been leached out in Dr. Arnold's opinion.

It may be that Bechuanaland specimens only should be regarded as *H. w. arnoldi* and Southern Rhodesia examples considered as intermediates for in one Bulawayo gecko (Tvl. Mus. 4768) the dark specks are confined to the sides of the belly according to Mr. V. FitzSimons who generously supplied me with data of the Transvaal Museum paratypes, which I have not seen. He writes: "The majority of specimens from Transvaal and Zululand are immaculate below, but odd ones from different localities have a few dusky or ill-defined specks below.

Apart from colour there is nothing in the above description which differs from that of the typical form with the possible exception of an *average* difference of 2 internasal granules, for there is only a single internasal granule in seven of the typical *wahlbergii* from Mozambique and the Transvaal in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zöology, there are 2 internasal granules in an eighth individual from Louw's Creek, Transvaal.

All eight are uniformly white or faintly infuscated beneath; while Smith described the type of *wahlbergii* as "reddish white, more or less tinged with lilac-purple," Boulenger describes the *alleged* type from Natal as "whitish, with a few scattered brown dots."